

Not only do they reinforce one another in an almost total incapacity to be bored either by people or by things with any bearing on their preoccupation they are alike in an utter absence of secretiveness about it. This last quality, rare enough in writers and not common among politicians, is one of their outstanding characteristics. Neither can ever have known what it is to be afraid of testing an opinion by the utmost openness of discussion, nor has either ever had any impulse to keep hidden anything of public interest. When they were on Trade Unionism, John Burns, Tom Mann, Ben Tillett and a whole host of Trade Union leaders were constantly about the house every point at issue was put to them. Employers and economists, so far as they could be got at, were treated in the same way. The book, when it came out, held neither surprises nor shocks for anyone concerned with its subject matter. It has been the same throughout their career. On Education, on the Poor Law, or Local Government, as, much later, on Russia, they never had anything "up their sleeves." All their results have always been presented, and designed to be presented, to the public. Sometimes, it is true, public presentation is made by, and public thanks, if any, given to, somebody else. That never troubles them. They are as generous in giving as in taking. In all their work, they meet friend and enemy in the open, from the start. They read the MSS

of other people, and they get other people to
read theirs
They revel in critics on the hearth Shyness,
of any kind,
is not in them One odd result is that they
have been
freely stigmatised as arch-plotters, simply
because so many
people have always known about their
"plots," as when
they were "working" anything or anybody, or
"getting"
at anyone

Actually, they are planners rather than
plotters, but
the planned life is rare enough to seem to
most people